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| APPLICATION NO.                                                                       | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.                  | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/769,800                                                                            | 02/03/2004  | Young-Suk Chung      | 1594.1314                            | 9248             |
| 21171                                                                                 | 7590        | 11/14/2005           |                                      |                  |
| STAAS & HALSEY LLP<br>SUITE 700<br>1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20005 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL |                  |
|                                                                                       |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>3749                     | PAPER NUMBER     |

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                         |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/769,800 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>CHUNG, YOUNG-SUK |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Stephen Gravini   | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3749                 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7,9-22 and 24-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-14 and 31-38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7,9,15,21-24 and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 16-20 and 25-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) 10-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 10-14 and 31-38 in the reply filed on October 20, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that the examination of group II claims would not be unduly burdensome. This is not found persuasive because in under current Office practice the classification system governs the assignment of an allowable independently claimed invention to a specific class and subclass. In this application, the allowable and rejected claims can be classified in one class and subclass while the non-elected claims would be classified in another class and subclass. Each of these classes and subclasses contain thousands of references and to distinguish each independently claimed invention among the references of different classes and subclasses would be unduly burdensome because each claimed feature must be examined in light of each different class and subclass.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims 16, 19-20, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clodic (US 6,161,306). Clodic is considered to disclose the claimed invention comprising:

a condensing duct **4** to condense water from circulated air as discussed generally in column 2 line 52 through column 3 line 26 wherein the disclosed steam and/or air condensed in condenser **13** is considered to anticipate the claimed condensing duct because both represent a condensing conduit;

a temperature detector **28** or **29** to detect temperatures of the condensed water considered to be expressly disclosed at column 4 lines 22-51; and

a controller **31** to terminate a drying process according to changes in temperature differences of the detected condensed water temperatures again considered to be expressly disclosed at column 4 lines 22-51 because the disclosed controller is considered to anticipate the claimed controller because both use temperature values and differences detected, especially with respect to condensed water temperature, to terminate a drying process. Clodic is also considered to disclose the claimed a water supplier to supply water to the condensing duct such that the condensed water is condensed in the condensing duct by communication between the circulated air and the supplied water, and comprises a spray nozzle disposed in the condensing duct; a water supply hose connected to the spray nozzle; and a drying valve disposed in the water supply hose to selectively supply the water supplied from an external water source at column 3 line 44 through column 4 line 21 wherein the disclosed electrovalves are considered to disclose spray nozzles because both are used to atomize water in a drying process, a counter **31** to accumulatively count a drying time while the drying process is performed such that the controller is provided with the accumulatively counted drying time from the counter to determine whether an

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end of the drying process is reached to terminate the drying process wherein the disclosed automatic control device is considered to anticipate the claimed controller because both accumulate data to determine an end drying period, a rotating tub **1**; a water tub **18 & 24**, surrounding the rotating tub, and having an opening with an air inlet formed therein and an air outlet formed in another surface of the water tub; and a drying device to dry the laundry, which comprises a centrifugal fan **3** mounted on the water tub and having an inlet and an outlet, and a discharging duct **4** connecting the outlet of the centrifugal fan with the air inlet of the water tub, the condensing duct being mounted remote from the opening of the water tub to connect the outlet of the centrifugal fan with an inlet thereof, and either a drying heater disposed in the discharging duct so that hot air is supplied to an inside of the water tub; and a condenser disposed in the condensing duct so that moisture is condensed and removed while vapor generated in the drying process moves through the condensing duct or a drying heater disposed in the discharging duct so that hot air is supplied to an inside of the water tub; and a condenser disposed in the condensing duct so that moisture is condensed and removed while vapor generated in the drying process moves through the condensing duct as shown in figure 1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clodic in view of Hoffman et al. (US 5,806,204). Clodic is considered to disclose the claimed invention, as rejected above, except for the claimed temperature detector at a lower position between an air outlet and a bottom of a condensing duct. Hoffman,

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another laundry machine, is considered to disclose a temperature detector at a lower position between an air outlet and a bottom of a condensing duct at column 4 line 16 through column 5 line 3. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Clodic with the temperature detector at a lower position between an air outlet and a bottom of a condensing duct, considered disclosed in Hoffman, for the purpose of measuring temperature at a lower point of a condensate collecting structure.

Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clodic. Clodic is considered to disclose the claimed invention, as rejected above, except for the claimed curvature connection submersion structure. It would have been an obvious an obvious matter of design choice to recite the claimed structure since the prior art would perform substantially the same function, using substantially the same means in substantially the same way for substantially the same result.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16-16-20 and 25-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on 571 272 4828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMG  
November 8, 2005

